

# The Week Abroad

## British Labor Is Peaceful as Europe Seethes

Workers Are Not Entirely Satisfied, but They Have No Deep Grievances Such as Harass Other Nations

## French Extremists Active Situation in Italy Is Serious; France and Germany Fear Spread of Bolshevism

By Arthur S. Draper

Special Cable to The Tribune

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LONDON, May 1.—Having had an opportunity to judge the sentiment in Paris and London immediately following the close of the San Remo conference, I can state with considerable assurance that the Anglo-French relations are greatly improved.

From all reports, there is an indication that the Italian leaders are equally pleased with the results of the conference, which started under cloudy but not finished under a blue sky, as Lloyd George put it. To say that all the differences have been settled would be an exaggeration, but the net result is a marked improvement in the Allied relations.

Each of the premiers considers that he won a substantial victory. For the next fortnight the governments can concentrate on domestic affairs and subordinate international questions to a secondary place.

England in a Happy Mood

Europe generally approached May 1 with a certain amount of anxiety, but England is in a fairly happy mood. Lloyd George is not entirely satisfied, but it is no deep grievance. Prices are high, but the workers have enough money to enjoy sports or a holiday to the river or country. England's condition has improved tremendously since a year ago.

But on the Continent there is another story. In France the extremists are still active. The regular leaders of French labor go beyond the limits of their better judgment, the situation among the railway men being somewhat similar to that recently experienced by American. During the last few days all French trains were overcrowded, for thousands hurried to their destinations in fear of a prolonged strike beginning on May Day.

The industrial conditions are in France, those in Italy are worse. In Italy, towns the workers have set up what virtually amounts to local governments and the authorities have permitted them to operate without interference. The workers are running factories and fixing prices, controlling the local supplies.

Fuel Supply Short

Economic conditions in Italy are extremely bad. A ton of coal costs as much as a ton of bread, fuel is so short that olive trees are being burned in many places. The fuel shortage in many parts of Italy is serious as it is in Germany.

Anything is likely to happen in

## Shortage of Houses in England And Wales Reaches 750,000

While Tenants Live in Constant Fear of Eviction, Investigating Committee Recommends 40 Per Cent Increase Over Pre-War Rates

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, April 20.—London has its evictions no less than New York. On the screen of English every-day existence the old familiar plot unfolds, with the eternal triangle of landlord, tenant and rent; lessor and lessee bicker from flat to flat and in the sheriff's offices. A custard pie in the shape of a forty per cent increase on rents has just landed squarely upon the rebellious features of the "property goat."

A committee appointed in February to consider the operations of the rent restrictions act, a Parliamentary provision for the protection of tenants, has submitted a number of recommendations. They include:

1. Extension of act for three years.

2. Increase of 40 per cent on pre-war rents exclusive of rates—30 per cent immediately and 10 per cent after twelve months, but special provision to be made for poor tenants whose incomes have not increased.

3. Increase of 1 per cent mortgage interest.

4. Profiteering in furnished lettings and exaction of "key money" to be prohibited under penalty.

5. Order for possession against tenant not to be effective against sub-tenant of unfurnished rooms.

The present shortage of houses in England and Wales is computed at 750,000, the annual demand being for not less than 100,000 new houses. Immediate action is being taken to meet the amount of talk of "homes for heroes" but many of the returning soldiers are still complaining of the hardness of the post-war conditions.

Those fortunate persons who are inside houses and flats are in constant fear of eviction, an artistic style of leasing including a joker in the form of a premium, making it advantageous for the landlord and his agents to let as many moving as rent days. Thanks

to the aforesaid rent restrictions act, it is more difficult these days to get the rent out of a tenant than it was before the war. The rent is coming from, but quite recently over forty families were evicted to make room for a moving picture theater.

The housing problem is a tangled one, even where there is no more than the inevitable disagreements between landlord and lessee. The small landlord, profiting at all his rent is swamped by the cost of repairs and the tenant is threatened by the horde of hungry profiteers waiting like vultures for the expiration of the restrictive acts to buy up existing houses.

Security of Tenure

The committee's proposal would give the tenant security of tenure for three years, at the end of which time it is considered possible the change in the restrictions imposed upon a landlord may be no longer possible for a judge to turn a man and his family out of a modern and comfortable villa and hold alternative accommodation in the shape of a tumble-down and antiquated hut.

As for the common enemy, he receives a measure of compensation for the restrictions imposed upon his profits, the increase in the shape of a 40 per cent increase over pre-war rents. But even this will probably be made conditional upon the effecting necessary repairs.

Meanwhile the shortage of "homes for heroes" is causing considerable emigration coloniesward by many of the heroes, emigration which is only restricted by the shortage of shipping accommodations.

Spain or Portugal, especially in the latter country. In Holland, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries workers have few complaints to make on economic and industrial conditions, they being comparatively good.

The weak German government is making the most of the Allied agreement to meet its representatives at Spa, and is trying to convince the people that brighter prospects are in store. Though the Germans frequently raise the cry of Bolshevism in hoping to frighten the Allies into making better terms, they have a real fear of the growth of the Lenin doctrines in their country. Essentially conservative, Germans magnify every indication of radicalism until it assumes proportions of an actual menace.

Hopeful of American Aid

The French and German governments probably are the most anxious in all Europe regarding the spread of Bolshevism. Most of continental Europe still hopes that America will interest herself in the political and financial affairs on this side of the Atlantic. France, Germany and Italy are equally anxious to have the United States participate in the reorganization of Europe. Among the financial leaders

there is the keenest desire to have America sit in the Brussels conference and also to accept a mandate for Armenia. Statesmen would gladly have America shoulder the responsibility which they are unwilling or unable to accept.

Every one who is interested in the league of nations is ready to admit that it is a poor substitute for what it promised to be a year ago. The Supreme Council is actually the only real league in existence. Unless America is influenced by moral agreements, she should accept the mandate for Armenia under present conditions. Those who still have confidence in the league of nations believe it would be better for the world if America remained aloof from European affairs until she is willing to take an active part.

At this moment Europe is asking for America's moral support, but all the neutral observers agree that it would be foolish to give even this until the league of nations is built on a sounder foundation. The content that America should have a voice in all European affairs commensurate with her size and influence, or should refuse to accept any obligations whatever.

United States Says Sorry Role

America has played a sorry role in the international conferences this year, her representatives acting as little more than stenographers. For instance, at San Remo Ambassador Robert Underwood Johnson might have given way to a clerk of the State Department. Mr. Johnson had no greater authority. Unofficially, American interests in Europe are increasing daily, her bankers, manufacturers, exporters and importers being quick to take advantage of their opportunities. Eventually America must give them official support or leave them to struggle under the handicap of foreign representatives who enjoy the backing of their respective governments.

Nothing that happened at San Remo is calculated to change the British policy, though some of the decisions may have the effect of postponing the reorganization of Europe until Germany and Russia. The British commercial policy is planned not for days, but for months and years, and the British government is standing behind the business interests.

Lloyd George won a substantial victory at San Remo and he is likely to increase his winnings at Spa when he sits in the conference with the Germans.

Luckenbach Building

Cargo Ships in China

Two Big Carriers Launched at Shanghai and Two Are on the Ways

SHANGHAI, April 2.—Two big cargo carriers of four being built in Shanghai by the Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Company for the United States Shipping Board will be launched April 6, and work is to be pressed on the remaining two in order that they may be put into service early this summer.

Much of the work being done on the American contracts is under the direct supervision of J. L. Luckenbach, of Luckenbach Steamship Line, of New York, who is assistant to J. A. McGregor in charge of Shipping Board work in the Far East. All the shipbuilding work being done for the United States Shipping Board in China and Japan probably will be completed within a comparatively short time. Mr. Luckenbach is unable to say whether new contracts are contemplated. Half of thirty vessels that have been under construction in Japanese shipyards have been launched and work is being pushed on those that remain on the ways.

The first two of the boats launched in Shanghai are the Mandarin and the Celestial. The two to follow will be the Oriental and the Cathay. The four are sister ships of 10,500 tons deadweight.

The American crew will require a rigorous course of training for nothing approaching the R-38 in size and cruising capacity has been produced in America.

## League of Nations To Decide Meaning Of Word Mandate

Executive Council, Puzzled Regarding Question, Wants To Know How Much Authority a Mandatory Carries

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, April 20.—For one reason or another the date of the Italian meeting of the executive council of the league of nations has been postponed until the first week in May. At the Rome conference several questions of exceeding importance will be considered, among them being the date of the first meeting of the assembly, which, under Article 3 of the covenant, consists of representatives of all the members of the league. It is planned to call the first gathering late this year, probably at Geneva. The labor department of the league has begun to move to Geneva, and by the end of the month it is expected it will be permanently installed there.

Another question to be decided at Rome is the meaning of the word "Mandate." Just what duties a country which holds a mandate shall perform must be decided. The executive council, which has been asked to consider the council's offer of a mandate for Armenia, has been puzzled and it wants to know exactly how much responsibility and authority a mandatory carries. Then there will be a report on the plan to fight typhus in Poland and southeastern Europe.

A few days later the opening session of the economic conference in Brussels will be held. This gathering under the auspices of the league expects to have the advice and assistance of American experts in the economic field. The conference will start in June, the committee draft a constitution for the permanent court of arbitration will meet at The Hague, with Elihu Root as the American representative.

Italian Engineer Blasts

Canal Into Existence

Waterway From Lake Caprolace To Mediterranean Sea Created With Mines

ROME, April 11.—Don Gelasio Caetani, brother of Prince Caetani, the American-trained engineer who laid the mine that blew off the top of the mountain Corno Lungo during the war, burying hundreds of Austrian soldiers beneath it, has just dynamited a canal into existence from Lake Caprolace to the Mediterranean sea.

The work was undertaken by direction of the prince, also known as the Duke of Sermoneta, head of the Caetani family, in the Pontine Marshes, near the duke's estate of Ciociara, forty miles from Rome.

The Pontine Marshes constitute the swampy forest country which stretches between the Tiber and the Tyrrhenian Sea, a region which the prince has labored for years to reclaim. On the seashore of this strange volcanic region there are three lakes or lagoons, called Fregene, Formello and Bracciano, communicating with each other into which at high tide all kinds of fish find their way, remaining there to which every day from 10 to 40 hundredweight are shipped.

Only one—that of Fregene—is directly connected with the sea, and in order to utilize the lake of Caprolace with the neighboring Mediterranean, the prince decided to explode a series of mines so as to form a canal between the lake and the sea.

The undertaking took fifty tons of explosives and 1,200 labor bombs, or five times as much as was required to blast a road through a mountain top. It was successful, opening a channel to the sea.

'Blue Influenza' Causes

Great Alarm in London

Extraordinary Precautions Being Taken to Prevent Spread of Fatal Disease

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, April 20.—Cyanotic influenza, otherwise and popularly known as "blue flu," owing to the peculiar heliotrope tint which the face of the victim assumes, has broken out in London and the provinces.

Unfortunately, but few cases have been reported, but people in many parts of this country have become alarmed over the prospect of a serious and widespread epidemic of this abnormal and fatal disease, and extraordinary precautions are being taken against its spread.

Cyanotic influenza was first recognized here in 1917. The striking features noted in the pneumonic cases were the respiratory distress owing to bronchial and pulmonary conditions, and the fact that the skin, particularly the face, of the sufferer turned blue. This is the alarming symptom, which is now most closely watched for and feared in every case of influenza or pneumonia. The papers recently announced the deaths, with only a few hours' separation, of a husband and wife.

'Crocodile' Eggs Cause

Rush for Antidote

Peppermint the Only Cure for Poisonous Product, Said Jokers; Britons Believed Him

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, April 20.—Practical jokers the English easy prey. A large number of persons, mostly women, in Newcastle were hoaxed by a stranger who started the report that eggs of a peculiar color, which had been sold in the week-end in local shops, for 5 cents apiece, were crocodile eggs from Egypt, and poisonous.

The only cure for those having eaten the eggs, he said, was peppermint, and there was a rush for the city drug stores. One chemist was visited by fifty women who would not leave until they had each been given a dose of peppermint. The eggs came from Denmark.

Deluge of Forged Money

In Vienna Hurts Business

VIENNA, May 1.—Discovery of large quantities of currency bearing forged stamps has virtually paralyzed retail business in this city, merchants refusing to take certain money unless guaranteed against loss. Bankers are trying to find some solution of the problem.

Divisional Shoulder Insignia

Restored by War Department

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Colorful divisional shoulder insignia worn by the American Expeditionary Forces overseas were restored to usage to-day, the War Department announcing that the prohibition, issued soon after the armistice, prohibiting the wearing of such divisional markings in this country.

## London Hotels Haze U.S. 'Pussyfooters'

Doors Closed in Their Faces and Bath Water Drawn Cold byirate Servants

From The Tribune's European Bureau

LONDON, April 28.—An American business man who arrived in London yesterday spent the night in a certain hotel where a party of recently arrived American prohibitionists were quartered. This morning he found no towels in his room, his boots were not blacked and his repeated ringing of various call bells met with no response. Eventually a deputation consisting of two maids waited upon him without giving him an opportunity to protest they demanded:

"What do you want here anyway?"

After convincing them he was only a plain business man, he received an explanation that the hotel staff decided upon a one-day strike as a protest against the "pussyfooters," they declared.

"We won't black boots and run errands for 'pussyfooters,'" they declared.

It has gone the day long. Doors have been closed to American visitors, their baths have been freezing cold, their things misplaced and all inconveniences such as only a London hotel staff could contrive to perpetrate have been inflicted upon them.

Americans other than prohibitionists are forced to proclaim the fact publicly every turn and put notices to that effect outside their doors.

Duke of the Abruzzi

Developing Italy's

Resources in Africa

Explorer by Investigating Colonies Seeks to Make Country Independent of Others for Its Cereals

ROME, April 9.—Arctic exploration and shooting the savage polar bear have no allurements at present for the Duke of the Abruzzi, who is now engaged in the equally scientific if less hazardous task of investigating the commercial and agricultural possibilities of the Benadir Colony, East Africa, with a view to making it a source of income for Italy, and even possibly of making that country independent of other nations for its supplies of cotton and cereals.

The duke, in addition, intends to explore the sources of the Uebi Scebel River, which rises in the high plateau of Hanar, toward Abyssinia, passes through the Italian colonies to the sea, and it is believed, can easily be made navigable for small boats, besides being an invaluable source of irrigation for the extensive agricultural enterprises which the duke hopes to initiate in Benadir.

The first news has just arrived of the expedition which started last December from Mogadiscio. An exhaustive study has already been made of the winds, the climate and the rainfall of the country, agricultural possibilities of the Benadir Colony. East Africa, with a view to making it a source of income for Italy, and even possibly of making that country independent of other nations for its supplies of cotton and cereals.

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